

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected all pending claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-19, and 25-27. By the present Response, Applicants have amended claims 1, 4-10, 12-14, 17-19, and 25. Additionally, Applicants have added new claims 28-38. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 4-15, 17-19, and 25-38 are currently pending. In light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the presently pending claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 4-9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that the recitation “the first position” of claim 4 lacked antecedent basis. By the present Response, Applicants have amended claim 4. With this in mind, Applicants respectfully assert that the Examiner’s rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner’s rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-14, 17-19, 25, 26, and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Felcman et al. reference (U.S. Pat. No. 5,754,396). However, Applicants respectively assert that the claims, as pending, are not anticipated by the Felcman reference. Simply put, Applicants respectfully assert that the pending claims recite features not disclosed by the Felcman reference.

A *prima facie* case of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. § 102 requires a showing that each limitation of a claim is found in a single reference, practice or device. *In re Donohue*, 226 U.S.P.Q. 619, 621 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Indeed, “the identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the...claim”. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 U.S.P.Q. 2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

The present invention relates to a system and method for accessing components housed within a protective enclosure. Application, page 2, lines 5-9. In one exemplary embodiment, the present invention provides a chassis 22 and an access panel 28 that cooperate to, at least partially, enclose a computer system. *See* Application, page 8, lines 10-22; *see also* Application, Figs. 1 and 2. To secure the access panel 28 with respect to the chassis 22, a plurality of latches 40 located on the access panel 28 engage with corresponding catch members 30 located on the chassis 22. *See* Application, Fig. 5. In the exemplary embodiment, to release the latches 40 located on the access panel from the catch members 30 located on the chassis, release switches 32 associated with the appropriate catch members 30 are both actuated in a first direction. *See* Application, Fig. 6 (noting the directional arrow in Fig. 6). This actuation of the release switches 32 causes the catches 30 to disengage with respect to the latches 40, thereby allowing pivotable movement of the access panel 28. Accordingly, the components housed within the chassis 22 may be accessed for repair and/or replacement. With this in mind, Applicants respectfully assert that the Felcman reference does not disclose all of the features recited in the instant claims.

Independent Claim 1 in the claims depending therefrom

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*,

a first and a second catch member *moveably secured to the chassis*,...the first and second catch members being biased in a *first direction* to secure the first and second latch members and being moveable in a *second direction* to release the first and second latch members.

(Emphasis added). Applicants respectfully assert that the Felcman reference does not disclose all of these recited features.

For example, the Felcman reference discloses a lid 12 that is secured to a chassis 18 to form an enclosure. *See* Felcman, column 4, lines 29-33. The Felcman device includes a pair of latches 36 that are located on the lid 12 and that engage with a pair of inwardly extending tabs 38 located on the chassis 18. *See id.*, column 4, lines 37-41. To engage the respective latches 36 with the corresponding tabs 38 located on the chassis, an operator must depress both of the latches 36 inwardly. *See* Felcman, column 4, lines 42-51. Accordingly, the Felcman reference teaches a device on which moveable latches located on a lid 20 engage with *fixed* tabs 38 located on the chassis. Moreover, the Felcman reference teaches that disengagement or engagement of the respective latches and tabs requires actuation of the latches towards one another and, thus, actuation of the latches in *opposite* directions.

Thus, the Felcman reference is absolutely devoid of first and second catch members *moveably secured to the chassis*. In the Felcman reference, the tabs 38 of the chassis 18 are *fixed*. Moreover, the Felcman reference is absolutely devoid of first and second catch members being biased in a first direction to secure the first and second latch members and being moveable in a second direction to release the first and second latch members. Rather, the moveable latches 36 of the Felcman device operate in *opposite* directions with respect to one another. Because the Felcman reference does not disclose all of the features recited by independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that the Felcman reference does not anticipate the instant claim.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 1 and its respective dependent claims 2 and 4-15 are not anticipated by the Felcman reference. With the foregoing in mind, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the instant claims.

Independent claim 19 and the Claims Depending Therefrom

Independent claim 19 recites, *inter alia*,

a first surface configured for sliding engagement with the first latch as the access panel is pivoted towards a closed position on the chassis...[and] a third surface configured for *sliding engagement* with the second latch as the access panel is pivoted *towards a closed position on the chassis* when the securing member is disposed on a second side of the chassis, nonadjacent to the first side.

(Emphasis added). Applicants respectfully assert that the Felcman reference does not disclose all of these recited features.

For example, as the lid 12 of the Felcman reference is pivoted towards the chassis 18, an operator must depress both latches 36 inwardly to allow the latches 36 to move past and below the fixed tabs 38 of the chassis 18. *See Felcman*, column 4, lines 42-52. Accordingly, as the lid 12 of the Felcman device is brought to the closed position with respect to the chassis 18, the surfaces of the latches 36 are not in sliding engagement with any surface. Rather, engagement between the tabs 38 and latch 36 of the Felcman device precludes closing of the lid 12 with respect to the chassis 18, because the latches 36 and tabs 38 abut against one another. That is, without operator involvement, the latches 36 of the Felcman device would interact with the tabs 38 to prevent closure of the lid by simply abutting against one another. Therefore, the Felcman reference is absolutely devoid of any teaching of a first surface configured for *sliding engagement* with the first latch as the access panel is pivoted towards a closed position on the chassis, as recited in the instant claim. Because the Felcman reference does not disclose all of the features recited in the instant claim, Applicants respectfully assert that the Felcman reference does not anticipate independent claim 19.

Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 19 and its respective dependent claims 17-18 are not anticipated by the Felcman reference. With

the foregoing in mind, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the instant claims.

Independent Claim 25 and the Claims Depending Therefrom

Independent claim 25 recites, *inter alia*,

providing a plurality of interchangeable catch members adapted to be selectively disposed on an interior side of opposite sidewalls of the *chassis* to releaseably capture a latch member extending from an access panel; [and]

providing a plurality of manual operators adapted to be disposed on an exterior of the *chassis* and securable to the plurality of catch members through an opening in the *chassis* such that the operators are configured to *actuate* the *catch members*.

(Emphasis added). Applicants respectfully assert that the Felcman reference does not disclose all of these recited features.

For example, the moveable latches 36 of the Felcman device are located on the lid 12. *See* Felcman, column 4, lines 34-41. These latches 36 engage with *fixed* tabs 38 located on the chassis 18. *See id.*, lines 38-41. To access the components within the computer 10 of the Felcman reference, an operator must manually and inwardly depress both latches 36 and rotate the lid 12 upwardly and forwardly as indicated by directional arrows 26. *See* Felcman, column 4, lines 42-45; *see also* Felcman, Fig. 1. Accordingly, the Felcman reference, at best, teaches *moveable latches located on the access panel* of the Felcman device. Moreover, the Felcman reference also discloses, at best, *fixed tabs located on the chassis*. *See id.* Accordingly, the Felcman reference does not disclose a plurality of interchangeable catch members adapted to...*releaseably capture* a latch member extending from an access panel. Moreover, the Felcman reference does not disclose a plurality of operators disposed on the exterior of the chassis...such that the operators are configured *to actuate the catch*

members. Rather, the Felcman device discloses fixed tabs that are located on the chassis. Accordingly, the Felcman reference does not disclose all of the features recited in the instant claim.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 25 and its respective dependent claims 26 and 27 are not anticipated by the Felcman reference. With the foregoing in mind, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the instant claims.

New Independent Claim 28 and the Claims Depending Therefrom

Independent claim 28 recites, *inter alia*,

a first operator disposed on an exterior side of the first side wall and coupled to the first catch member via a first extension member extending through the first sidewall; and

a second operator disposed on an exterior side of the second sidewall and coupled to the second catch member via a second extension member extending through the second sidewall, wherein actuation of the first and second operators in a *first direction* disengages the first and second catch members from the first and second latch members respectively.

(Emphasis added). Applicants respectfully assert that the Felcman reference does not disclose all of the features recited in the instant claim.

For example, as discussed above, the Felcman reference teaches that disengagement of the lid 12 from the chassis 18 requires manual operation of moveable latches 36 *located on the lid 12* in a direction *towards* one another. *See* Felcman, column 4, lines 34-44. Accordingly, the Felcman teaches that the latches 36 are depressed in *opposite directions* with respect to one another during operation. Accordingly, the Felcman reference is absolutely devoid of any teaching regarding operators such that actuation of the operators in a *first direction* disengages both the

first and second catch members from the first and second latch members respectively. Thus, the Felcman reference does not disclose all of the features recited in the instant claims.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 28 and its respective dependent claims 29-33 are not anticipated by the Felcman reference. In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the instant claims.

Independent Claim 34 and the Claims Depending Therefrom

Independent claim 34 recites, *inter alia*,

a first catch member located on a first sidewall of the chassis and configured to engage with the first latch member, the first catch member being moveable in a first direction; and

a second catch member located on a second sidewall not adjacent to the first sidewall and configured to engage with the second latch member, wherein the second catch member is moveable in the first direction, and wherein the first and second catch members are configured to disengage with the first and second latch members respectively via *actuation of the first and second catch members in the first direction*.

(Emphasis added). Applicants respectfully assert that the Felcman reference does not disclose all of the features recited in the instant claim.

For example, the Felcman reference, as discussed above, discloses moveable latches 36 that are actuated in opposite directions for release of the lid 12 with respect to the chassis 18. Accordingly, the Felcman reference is absolutely devoid of any teaching related to first and second catch members that disengage with respect to first and second latch members via actuation of both the first and second catch members in

a *first direction*. Thus, the Felcman reference does not disclose all of the features recited in the instant claim.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that independent claim 34 and its respective dependent claims 35-38 are not anticipated by the Felcman reference. In light of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the instant claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected dependent claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Felcman reference as applied to claim 1 above in view of the Raffman reference (U.S. Patent No. 2,878,389). However, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 15, as pending, is not obvious in view of the Examiner's reference combination. In summary, Applicants respectfully assert that the foregoing references, taken alone or in combination, do not disclose all of features recited in the instant claim.

The burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness falls on the Examiner. *Ex parte Wolters and Kuypers*, 214 U.S.P.Q. 735 (PTO Bd. App. 1979). Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital*, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 U.S.P.Q. 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Accordingly, to establish a *prima facie* case, the Examiner must not only show that the combination includes *all* of the claimed elements, but also a convincing line of reason as to why one of ordinary skill in the art would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references. *Ex parte Clapp*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 972 (B.P.A.I. 1985).

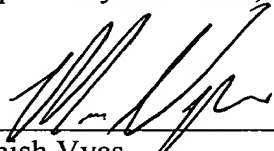
As discussed above, the Felcman reference does not disclose all of the features recited by independent claim 1, from which claim 15 depends. Additionally, there is no reason to believe that the Raffman references obviates the deficiencies of the Felcman reference, as discussed above. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claim 15 is patentable over the Raffman-Felcman reference combination not only for its dependence on an allowable base claim, but also by virtue of the additional features recited therein.

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: December 29, 2003

Respectfully submitted,



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